

A large number of the apparently sterile women are very old. 847
 The usual reply to a question concerning the lack of children is that 842
 the bearing of children is a burden which interferes with the efficiency
 of women in garden and road work, or the oft repeated, "laze along
 push push", one suggesting deliberate abortion, and the other lack
 of desire.

APATHY.

We are dealing with a people who have been profoundly upset by 167 ●
 the coming of European settlement, which during the first few years 177
 rudely interrupted local conditions of life, and practically withdrew
 the majority of able-bodied males and many females of reproductive
 age from the villages, and continued to drain the population of its best 177
 blood year after year. The old German methods of uniting the stocks
 meant, in effect, that bush people and coastal people were deprived
 of their racial and social individuality, and compelled to live more
 or less on one another's ground, thus perforce losing the very
 characteristics that make for group stability. By the land alienation
 that took place during these years, natives found themselves being
 gradually pushed into corners here and there by the ever-expanding
 European settlement. The road work and other uses to which the
 relatively few remaining able-bodied men were put left small time for
 gardening and other native occupations. On top of these disturbing 177
 influences came the Mission with its new cultures. Pressure was brought
 to bear on all practices having the slightest resemblance to European 831
 standards of immorality. The natives who led an active sexual life 797
 with more or less promiscuity, in which they were constantly stimulated
 by various dances that gave incentive to and opportunity for sexual
 expression, now heard that their most natural and spontaneous
 activities were things of which to be ashamed, unless regulated in
 accordance with the standards taught by the Mission. As a prominent
 headman said to me, "the romance, excitement, and adventure of sex
 have gone. Always the native teachers speak of it in church and
 school as a thing of shame. Before, men and women gratified their
 desires when and where they found them. Now, to go into the bush
 with your lover is to be publicly shamed. The Missions say to the
 people who are married, 'You must have more children', but how
 can there be children without sex life, and how can there be sex
 life without sex play. Our night dances are practically forbidden,
 romance and adventure now appear to be sins, and the boys and girls 145
 are ashamed, and have no desire ('laze along, push push').".

There is no doubt that in olden days the native ceremonial and 177
 social life stimulated considerable sexual freedom. In many places 835
 women were permitted to have lovers who were to a certain extent
 recognized socially, and who contributed payments to the husband.

progress of the new cultures. Among the children now being educated, 177 however, the changes wrought by the civilizing processes are steadily bearing fruit.

NATIVE LABOUR.

During the early years of German control, and while efforts were being made to amalgamate the native stocks, able-bodied men and women were recruited in relatively large numbers for work in different parts of the Territory and in German colonies beyond the Territory. 167 464

In 1909-10, however, the number of natives recruited for work outside the district decreased considerably, owing, no doubt, to the plantations then being developed in New Ireland, which were able to offer local employment to the natives of the district. In that year the recruiting of unmarried women from New Ireland was prohibited, a step by which the German Government hoped "that the extraordinary scarcity of women under which New Ireland has directly suffered for years in consequence of the unmarried women being taken away, will gradually be rectified, and so counteract the falling-off of the population."

Hoffman* points out that the able-bodied male natives recruited from the East coast in 1911 numbered 810, and in 1912 this number increased to 1,147. There was no record of the married and unmarried women recruited during that time. Hoffman goes on to say: "It is difficult to draw any conclusion from the present lists and records as to whether and how far the shortage of women brought about by recruiting at present exists. As has been mentioned before, records of the numbers of recruited women are lacking. . . . It is a fact, however, that the natural shortage of women is made more or less acute by recruiting. There is no proof to show that it is brought about by recruiting."

During my enumeration of the population the names of 925 men and 101 women were recorded "absent under indenture." This figure represents 12 per cent. of the total population, 25 per cent. of the adult male population and actually 27 per cent. of able-bodied males. 162 167 464
Approximately 550 males and 60 females are employed by Europeans and Asiatics between Kavieng and Karu. The remainder are distributed in other parts of New Ireland and the Territory, a fair number of men and women being engaged in domestic service within the township of Rabaul, in which work they show special aptitude. Thirty-four per cent. of the labourers are married.

Native labourers employed on plantations near their villages are 466 in the satisfactory position of being able to spend at least every week-end and often every night with their families. This is an ideal condition from the point of view both of the planter and of the labourer. It

*Government Gazette, German New Guinea, June, 1913.